



# READING'S 'MEN OF SONG' CARE

As reported briefly last month on Saturday March 24th St. Peter's Church, Caversham, will host a concert given by Reading Male Voice Choir for CARE.

CARE is a charity founded some twenty-five years ago, with the aim of establishing communities for the life-long residential care of mentally-handicapped adults of both sexes. Within these communities, residents lead a very purposeful and dignified life, with their work having end products. They are well integrated and supported by

their surrounding communities, with whom they share much of their sporting and social life.

At present there are seven communities, and an eighth community is to be built at Ramsbury, near Hungerford. This will mean that members of the community at present living at

Blackerton in Devon, will be able to transfer to Ramsbury to be nearer to their family homes in the Reading area. Anne, Tim, Nigel, Mark and Andy all fall into this category. In fact, Caversham was Andy's home for twenty years. He was a founding member of Caversham Park Church, and also was confirmed in St Peter's Church, which

makes the venue for the concert most appropriate.

The main objective of this concert is to help raise a small part of the £3 million necessary to complete such a venture as the new community at Ramsbury.

Reading Male Voice Choir has about seventy

members and is much travelled. In the last three years, as well as many concerts in England and Wales, they have performed in Majorca, Norway and Holland. Their Musical Director is the charismatic Gwyn Arch, and their talented accompanist is Clive Waterman who also doubles as Deputy Conductor. The choir is also fortunate in having Jen-

ny Hanley as their new President.

The intention has always been to perform for charities, and RMVC give some twelve concerts each year for different charities. This concert is close to home, as Andy's father sings with the choir, and Andy often attends rehearsals when he is at home, as a sort

of ex-officio member.

We need the support of all the churches in Caversham for this venture to succeed. We promise a good concert with RMVC, and also the soloist will be a well known local singer, Wendy Carne. Please make a note in your diary of the date and time, Saturday 24th March at 8.00pm at St Peter's Church, Caversham.

## LATEST FROM SWAN LIFELINE: GOOD NEWS!

WE have a dinghy! Within a few hours of their 'Caversham Bridge' being delivered, a Caversham family telephoned Dennis and Joan Hammond with the offer of a dinghy, which they delivered to the Hammond's house the next day. Many

thanks indeed for your kindness and prompt action the 'Hanley Family'.

Many thanks also to all those who have brought stale bread, rolls and cakes and put them in the 'Swan Sack' in St. Peter's Church porch. Please con-

tinue to collect bread etc. to put in the sack. It does not matter how stale it is, its 'dunking' in the river will soon soften it! Without this help the swans will go hungry during the coming winter months.

J.A.

## COULD YOU BE A HOSPITAL WELCOMER?

WOULD you be interested in joining other volunteers to work in the very successful "Welcoming Service" at the Royal Berkshire Hospital? You would mainly be involved with welcoming pa-

tients and visitors, then directing or accompanying them around the hospital.

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then we would love to hear from you. For more information simply telephone the Voluntary Services Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on Reading 877061.

## WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 1990

ON the first Friday of March each year, people of all colours, races and Christian denominations meet together to pray, throughout the world. They come together in rural villages and cities, in tiny chapels and great cathedrals. Each year the Service, organised and led by women is written by the National Committee of a different country. We are encouraged to learn what we can about that country, so that through the World Day of Prayer, we can be alongside its people. We can

share with them their joys and sorrows, their needs, and their hopes for the future.

This year, the women of Czechoslovakia have produced the Service and their challenge, "A BETTER TOMORROW - JUSTICE FOR ALL" is made even more meaningful by the events in that country, since it was written. As the news from Czechoslovakia unfolds we give thanks that its people are at last regaining the freedom which we, perhaps, take so much for granted.

On Friday March

2nd 1990 our prayers of thanksgiving, and of guidance for the country will be world-wide in this year's Womens' World Day of Prayer. On that day, we become part of an international family, focused on the same theme and the same concerns.

In this country, the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the Free Churches host the Service in turn, every three years. In 1990, in Reading and Caversham, it is the turn of the Roman Catholic Churches. Here, the Service will

be at St Anne's, Lower Caversham at 8.15pm. There will be refreshments in St Anne's Hall afterwards, and a warm welcome is extended to men, women and children in the area to attend this Service. For any further information please telephone Ann Knee-Robinson (Reading 472793), the Chairman of the Caversham Committee. For any who would prefer an afternoon Service, this will be at St James's Roman Catholic Church, Forbury Road, Reading at 2.00pm.

Enid Toombs

### WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2ND MARCH 1990

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Evening Service: at 8.15pm

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# TALKING POINT

AN EDITOR'S COMMENT

IT HAS ALMOST BECOME A CLICHÉ THAT 1989 WAS A YEAR OF UN-PARALLELED CHANGE. Many of the changes which have taken place in Eastern Europe have been the sort that many here have for many years longed to witness.

I well remember the anxiety and apprehension felt when as a youth I listened to the radio to hear how the Russians had advanced into Europe and how the Communists had engineered themselves into positions of authority and took power in all the capitals of Eastern Europe. I remember how we trembled when France and Italy threatened to go the same way and how we uttered sighs of relief when the Communists failed to take power in those countries. Many were the times in later years when I wondered whether the post-war divisions and areas of influence in Europe would ever change and whether one would see the Eastern bloc countries free and able to choose their own destinies and if they did, would it happen in my life time.

I would draw comfort from what I once heard an historian say. He had pointed out that the whole of Eastern Europe was basically flat like a flood plain across which tides could ebb and flow. At that time in the early 1950s we had witnessed the extent to which

the tide from the East had flowed westwards and he predicted that one day that tide would recede and that a tide would flow back from West to East.

Since then we have seen events which we hoped were the beginnings of the counter flow. There were troubles in E. Germany, the Hungarian rising of 1957, the Prague Spring of 1968 and the rise of Solidarity in Poland. Our hopes were dashed and those eddies became drowned in the prevailing Eastern tide.

This time it really seems that the tide has turned, that the countries of Eastern Europe have thrown off the Communist yoke to regain independence. Why has it all happened so suddenly? One moment the regimes appeared firmly in place, yet the next they had collapsed like a pack of cards.

I have watched with much fascination T.V. pictures of the events in the towns and cities of E. Germany, of Czechoslovakia and Romania to try to understand how and why events took the course they did. Firstly it was clear that the time was ripe since Russia was unwilling or unable to prop up the Communist regimes by force. Secondly, there was a strong demand for personal freedom and thirdly a need for improvement in the standard of living of the people.

As I watched the T.V. I was impressed by the way the revolts were courageously led by eager young people. They had everything to gain. Many of the older citizens were missing. Had they lost the will, had they been browbeaten by authority or had they too much to lose? I was aware of the powerful effect these T.V. transmissions were having on me and realised what effect transmissions from the West must have had on them over the years. No doubt the West has much to offer its brothers in the East but I do wonder whether it will all be for the good. There are probably attributes of Eastern Society (with its history of Social democracy) which could well be incorporated into our capitalist system. My doubts were strengthened when I was watching the same T.V. news that had been reporting the insurrection in Bucharest. The particular report was of the opening in London before Christmas of the first centre for the Charity "Crisis". It showed the "down and outs" of the capital being given a hot meal and it focussed on the stories of some of them. I was gripped by the story of one particular person.

This lady had lost her home eight or nine years ago following the death of her husband. Since then she had been homeless and reduced to living in one

of the cardboard cities. She still maintained contact with her eight children and they with her through a P.O. box number. What sort of family was this, I wondered, which could manage to keep in touch yet appear to do nothing to help their destitute mother? There was much sadness in her face as she went on to say that it was probably her own fault. She had lived her life for herself and now nobody wanted her. She added wistfully that if she could have her life over again she would behave differently. That person was a microcosm of society in this country. Our capitalist system has

developed a philosophy of looking after oneself to the exclusion of others. Our leaders proclaim that there is no such thing as society only a collection of individuals but they are the first to lament the demise of the family as a social unit.

These two contrasting pictures will remain with me for a long time. On the one hand the eager young people with a common ideal and on the other that lonely lost old lady. My hope is that in their search for the benefits of the Western way of life our Eastern brethren will not take on board what is bad as well.

E.C.

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## POST BAG

Dear 'Bridge',

In Mr. Sweeney's diatribe against Father Grimwade, he says: "I can find no record in the Gospels of Christ's disobedience to ecclesiastical authority".

One would have thought that getting nailed to a tree on a blasphemy charge suggested some degree of intransigence on His part.

Yours etc.,  
Dafydd ap Thomas  
The Weaving House,  
Cromwell Road,  
Caversham.

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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All contributions for March issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 February.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 5 February.

The dates for April will be Monday 5 March and Wednesday 7 March.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

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# ST ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The St Andrew's Working Party's Annual Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 25th November. This year's effort was in aid of HELEN HOUSE, the Oxford Hospice for terminally ill children. The Fayre was an even greater success than in previous years and much enjoyed by all who took part.

In addition to an array of attractive stalls offering lots of 'Christmas Gift' ideas, there was Father Christmas who met

and chatted to many children as well as parents, all of whom promised to leave a mince pie and a glass of whisky in the fireplace hearth on Christmas Eve. One hesitates to think of the state that Father Christmas may have been in by the time he arrived back at his home on Christmas morning. Roger Kent presented a Punch and Judy

Show to the delight of all and cries of "Oh yes you did" could be heard ringing throughout the hall, and it wasn't just the children who were shouting.

All of this resulted in a cheque for the magnificent sum of £1,352.00 being presented to Mr Michael Garside, Administrator of Helen House, at the 9.15am Service on Sunday 3rd December by the Revd Bill Carpenter. This amount included £187 which was raised at the Fashion Show in April.

Sylvia Cooper, the working party and all those who helped or contributed to the event are to be congratulated on such a splendid result.



St. Andrew's Christmas Fayre and the presentation of the cheque.

# ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

Christmas came early for St Andrew's Fellowship on 13th December when members were greeted with a glass of punch, and then enjoyed a fine concert by the very gifted Aspden family and some of their friends. There were very amusing poetry and prose readings by Eric Aspden and Elizabeth Field, carols by James Aspden and Ruth Ortnor, duets by Philip Aspden with Valerie Aspden and Bridget Bowyer, medleys by Philip

Aspden and a most original trio of piano and treble and bass ocarinas from James Aspden, Philip Aspden and Jo Hodson. The concert ended by everyone singing Merry Christmas, and they then refreshed themselves with a very enjoyable buffet supper, provided by the Committee.

Unfortunately some members were unable to be present owing to illness, but those who did manage to get there felt Christmas really had begun.

# GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

The celebration of Christmas at Caversham Methodist Church, was a joy to all who attended, participated, gave and received.

The Christmas message was told again and again in many different ways, from carol services, nativity plays, giving mince pies, singing solos, playing in the band, visiting the sick, sharing the joy of Christmas, though fellowship and friendship and carol singing to the general public.

the Ambassadors and the Sunshine girls both chose to go carol singing on the wettest night of the year, but in spite of this, creditable sums of money were raised for the National Children's Home and 210FM's Give a Child a Chance Charity. Both groups ended their singing with hamburgers and hot drinks, all well deserved. It was a special pleasure to have John and Doreen Boakes sharing in their first Christmas with us in

Caversham, and we wish them and everyone a very happy and peaceful new year.

Unfortunately a good number of friends were ill over the Christmas period, some elderly, and some not so old. The fellowship of the Church is always mindful of friends who are ill, especially at Christmas, and through these pages we assure you all of our concern, our love and prayers.

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**EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE**  
We have been asked by the Evangelical Alliance to give some publicity to this issue, which we are happy to do without prejudice. Readers may care to comment?

**THE BROADCASTING BILL MUST NOT BECOME LAW AS IT STANDS.**

*Otherwise, the Christian voice will be increasingly gagged over the years to come.*



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  - IT ONLY allows secular ownership of TV stations
  - IT DENIES Christian bodies the freedom to sponsor programmes
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**BUGS BOTTOM**

AT last the long wait is over and after nearly a year in the queue the case of Bugs Bottom is to be heard in the High Court on 26-27 February. Everyone who possibly can should be there, as this will be the last stage in the long battle to save the valley from developers.

If the case is lost in the High Court, that must be the end of the road. There will be protests of course at what will be seen as a wrong decision, and no doubt guerilla activity will be carried on, but all the recognised ways of challenging the decision will have been exhausted. However, if the Borough Council wins its case, and it must be remembered that if there had not been a reasonable hope of success their legal advisers would have warned against bringing any action, the battle will still not be won, but the chances of success will have been enormously increased. The Secretary of State will then be required thoroughly to re-investigate the case, and here the departure of Nicholas Ridley from that post will be an added bonus. It is at this point that letters to Christopher Patten will have their greatest impact and he must be inundated with them. There are those wishing to write before the hearing, but unless they are prepared to write two letters, they should save their efforts for when

**RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT**  
by  
**WATCHDOG**

the decision is announced. It is anyhow highly unlikely that Christopher Patten would reverse his predecessor's decision with a High Court case pending.

The two Residents' Associations have plans waiting to be put into action in the event of a favourable decision. A leaflet has been drawn up, printers have been alerted, and distribution lists are being prepared, but if blanket coverage is to be achieved, more volunteers will be required (offers to Doris Thomas on Reading 472864) so that as many people as possible can be informed of what is happening and can send off that one vital letter.

Be ready with your help if you want to see this beautiful valley saved and to prevent Caversham and the newly completed road system in Reading being swamped with hundreds and hundreds more cars.

**CONSERVATION  
MINDED**

Joan Walley, the shadow Minister for the Environment, paid a visit to Reading towards the end of the year. She

congratulated Reading for being prepared to spend a considerable sum of money to bring the case of Bugs Bottom to the High Court. Revealing a ladder in her elegant black stockings as proof, she said she had visited the valley and felt it important to save it on all counts.

She was also taken to Whitley to sample the whiff, but it was one of the rare occasions when it was not whiffing. Our fellow citizens in the south of Reading have been fighting to get this problem solved for even longer than people on this side of the river have been warding off attacks on Bugs Bottom.

**TIDYING UP**

Locally, St. Martin's Property Corporation, not prominent in the field of environmental care, have been carrying out improvements at their shopping precinct. Broken down fences have been repaired and stained, seats and lights have been repaired, and the appalling amount of rubbish that had accumulated at the back of their premises has been cleared away.

**POSTBAG**

Dear Editors,

I was rather surprised that in a recent "Bridge" Katy mentioned many interesting people she'd met through being 'Katy' (I know who she is but will not reveal her identity), but said that she couldn't remember the name of the man who illustrated the Billy Bunter books. I feel sure that had she phoned anyone — including myself — who has lived in Caversham for twenty years she would have been told that his name was Charles Chapman; many Chapmans and other relatives of his still live in Caversham, I know several of them.

When I first came to Caversham thirty years ago Mr Chapman was living in Highmoor Road and was a member of St Andrew's choir; later he and his relatives moved to Tokers Green. I very often saw him when on my way to work; he would be riding his "sit up and beg" bicycle apparently unaware that there might be cars along. I was always afraid that one day I would knock him down as I went round a rather nasty bend. I did mention this to his family but was told that that was how he always rode and they feared he would be knocked down one day. When he died I was temporarily out of the country but I gather that he died peacefully of natural causes.

Yours etc  
Kathrene Solly  
Blenheim Road,  
Caversham

bad length outside the shops on the south side, with heaving paving slabs, roughly patched pot holes and places where the bare earth shows, whilst heaps of refuse-filled bags awaiting collection are piled up at the base of the trees. It is a squalid sight.

A little further on, between the railway bridge and Vastern Road, the surface of the path is littered with builders' rubble and the surface remains broken up where their heavy equipment has stood on it. The 'Considerate Contractor' scheme is certainly not in evidence there. Between Northfield Road and Vastern Road it is not too bad, but outside Carters it is frequently, and particularly on a Saturday, practically impossible to get past because of cars blocking the pavement. Skiers seem to consider that, in spite of the vigorous sport they have chosen to pursue, walking is an exercise to be avoided.

**TREAD CAREFULLY**

Pavements are still in need of care and attention. Many have been done, making them not only safer but also improving the appearance of the whole of the street which they border. Some that are very bad are still awaiting the next allocation of money. A stretch outside the Telephone Exchange is particularly bad, with broken up and tilting pavement slabs, and whenever it rains deep water forms across the whole width of the pavement, making it necessary to walk out into the carriageway amongst the traffic.

In Caversham Road on the other side of the bridge the pavements look like I imagine those in Bucharest do. There is a particularly

Gullies and drains blocked by leaves and gravel, apart from looking unkempt, were partly the cause of the great stretches of water that were unable to run away which occurred when the rains of December finally brought the long dry spell to an end. The rush of water only exacerbated the problem, so there is now a lot of work waiting to be done if the conditions are not to be repeated.

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## OBITUARIES

### LESLIE WYETH

"A TRUSTED friend, a wonderful counsellor and an encourager" — these words were spoken at the funeral service of Leslie Wyeth by Rev. Gordon Thomas, the Pastor Secretary of the Berks Baptist Association, in paying a tribute to a life given in so many ways to his Lord through service to the Baptist Church both locally and nationally.

Leslie had reached the age of 87 when he was called to higher service on 20th December. His links with the Baptist Church dated from his boyhood. He witnessed to his faith through baptism and was received into membership of the Caversham Baptist Free Church in 1916, and his continuous membership of 73 years made him by many years the senior member of the Church. His service to the Church included spells as a Deacon in the early thirties and again after the

war in the fifties, and his wise counsel and business skills were much valued, but his principal work was at the little Church in the village of Brimpton, where he gave dedicated service Sunday by Sunday as Lay Pastor for 52 years.

As a young man he had hoped to become a Baptist Minister and he had studied theology for three years, but when this was denied him he willingly accepted that his ministry should be as a Lay Preacher, whilst he worked during the week at Ridley's Timber Yard, and then after that closed, at Huntley & Palmers. His love for his Lord was expressed in his deep love and concern for the village causes. Service for so many as a Lay Preacher both at Brimpton and throughout the Churches of the Berkshire Association led him into becoming the Lay Preachers

Representative on the Association Council, and then to becoming the Association representative on the National Body. His service to local Baptist causes was recognised in 1959 when he was appointed as President of the Berks Baptist Association and in 1985 there was further recognition when he was made an honorary life member of the Association — a very rare honour.

Leslie was never a man of 'one denomination' though he maintained his Baptist and Free Church convictions and tradition with loyalty and love. He represented his Church on various inter-church bodies in the town, and for the past 14 years has led an ecumenical Bible Study Group which continued until ill-health led to his admission to hospital last summer. The group has continued to meet, but Leslie's failing health prevented him from resuming as leader. Another example of his many interests has been the annual visits he has paid to France each sum-

mer to stay with Catholic friends — these visits continued until 1988.

Not only was he engaged in Church activities, as readers of the Profile published in the Caversham Bridge in June 1988 will know. As a young man he was involved with the Church Scout Group, and then for many years he was an active worker with the Y.M.C.A. in Reading.

For the past 20 years Leslie has suffered from diabetes. This led to circulation problems needing hospital treatment, and resulted in difficulty in walking and in failing eyesight, but despite these handicaps he remained active in mind and spirit, and continued to preach. His knowledge of the Bible was such that he could quote from memory the words he needed when poor eyesight prevented him from reading from the book. He was a considerable scholar and teacher of the Bible, and his very last assignment which gave him much satisfaction was to tutor

one of the members of his Church as she studied for the Baptist Union Training Course.

Leslie was supported in all his activities by his dear wife Eva, both in their home and behind the scenes in so many ways and especially in his ministry at Brimpton, where she regularly travelled with him as he preached on Sundays and maintained pastoral care of the fellowship. To Eva we offer our deepest sympathy and the assurance of our support in prayer.

From the opening of the service by Rev. Philip Egglestone to the closing words by the Minister of the Church, Rev. Dennis Weller, there was a sense of thanksgiving for a life dedicated to God's service. A familiar passage from the Psalms was read at the service and contains the words —

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, Whom shall I fear?"

These words sum up the faith by which Leslie lived.

### CHARLIE ALLWRIGHT

THE untimely death of Charlie Allwright at the age of 66 following a heart operation has deprived Caversham and Mapledurham of a character who will be hard to replace.

Charlie was born at Roke, not 20 miles from his last home. His father farmed, and in those pre-war days when jobs for all were difficult and the land not producing sufficient to keep both sons, Charlie, the younger, was sent to Australia at the age of 14. There he worked in various places in the out-back until the war started, and as soon as he was old enough, joined the Australian army and saw

much service overseas. He returned home again to try the farming life once more where he met Chris, his wife to be, working well after the war in the Land Army. They married, lived near Benson where their four children were born; but times were still hard and the family made the brave move back to Australia, when the youngest child was just a baby.

It was sad that the climate gave Charlie a skin disease and they were advised to return home on medical grounds. The family moved back to Oxfordshire. It says a lot about those days

overseas that thereafter rivers of Australian friends flowed into their homes at Mapledurham and that when they both went back for a holiday a few years ago, the same sort of hospitality was heartily reciprocated.

Back in this country Charlie was eventually appointed farm manager of the Mapledurham estate, then suffering from rather too many changes to make the farming side viable. He pulled all this together and over his 20 years at Mapledurham, made the estate the efficient working unit that it is today. He took early retirement and stayed on the estate where his knowledge was called on frequently and where he continued to help in many ways.

Charlie was a man of strong views and had no hesitation in expressing them and this endeared him to his friends rather than the opposite. He was a good countryman, with feet firmly on the ground. He was a good family man too, married for 35 years and with a great affection for his wife and family of whom he was so proud. He enjoyed reading and music and had a wide catholic taste in what he read and what he heard. His band-playing days started when he was in the army and he was an enthusiastic

member of the Chelsey Silver Band and played the cornet and he derived much pleasure from his connections there. He was always willing to give help where it was needed, such as providing the farm carts for the St. Peter's Mystery plays.

At his last home at New Farm, Charlie Allwright continued his woodworking hobby and enjoyed growing dahlias, marking time before their planned final move, which sadly he never made. To Chris and to all the family we offer our love and sympathy.

### HAROLD HOBBS

AS we go to press we are informed of the sudden death of Mr. Harold Hobbs, treasurer of the Pop-in Centre. We offer our condolences to his family.

## POSTBAG

Sir,  
I read with interest, as I always do, "Watchdog's" column in the January Edition of the "Caversham Bridge".

All was well, until I came to the last sentence, regretting Caversham's failure to commemorate the destruction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham in 1538.

There would be little point in such a commemoration, because the shrine exists. The first steps to its restoration were taken when Caversham Bridge was rebuilt. A number of stones from the old chapel on the Bridge were handed to the then Parish Priest, Fr.

Michael Williams, for incorporation in a restored shrine. The bridge chapel was not the original shrine, which was completely destroyed. Some of the stones were used to build the altar at the Chapel of Ease in Richmond Road. Others were utilised when the restored Shrine was built in 1958-9. It exists, gloriously, in South View Avenue, as a side chapel at the church of Our Lady and St Anne, and for thirty years it has been a regular place of pilgrimage. What better form of commemoration than restoration?

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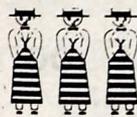
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## the CLUBS

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

A LARGE proportion of members braved the fog to attend the November meeting of the Emmer Green T.G. After the business the rest of the evening was taken up with a Beetle Drive which generated much noise and was great fun. It was won by Mrs D. Sharman with Mrs I. Harrison being awarded the booby prize. A raffle was conducted by Mrs Julie Miles and the flowers from the top table, arranged by Mrs Collins and Mrs Gudgeon were presented to Mrs Perrin and Mrs Stickle. Members were delighted to hear that Mrs Rose Wingrove had been nominated to receive a bouquet of flowers from Woman's Own magazine in appreciation of all the good work she does for Multiple Sclerosis and polio sufferers. The ladies enjoyed the remainder of the Guild birthday cake with their coffee to round off a very happy evening.

In December the ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were entertained to a slide show given by Mr Taylor. The slides were ones he'd taken of the countryside in all seasons, most of them of local scenes, and very beautiful. It made a lovely ending to what has been a very interesting and entertaining year.

In November the Arts and Crafts group visited the Museum of Court Costume and the State Apartments at Kensington Palace and in December had a very good Christmas Lunch at The Fox, Cane End.

The Social Studies group were also given a slide show, this time by one of the members who'd spent last Christmas "island hopping" around the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

Finally, two

members, Mrs Sales and Mrs McArthur, were welcomed to the guild and the chairman, Miss Pollard, wished everyone a happy Christmas and a very happy New Year.

The guild meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month in St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

### Rosehill W.I.

THE December meeting was well attended and Mrs Barbara Weller welcomed members and visitors. As Christmas is celebrated by a special meeting in December, business was cut to a minimum. A talk by Mrs Brown came next; she demonstrated how to make three Christmas flower arrangements, all very beautiful and so well explained, thus making the talk interesting as well as visual. Two of these arrangements were split up and used as extra raffle prizes.

Tea was then taken, with cakes, mince pies and sandwiches made by the Committee. The cake was made and iced by Mrs Jefferies. The competition for a home-made Christmas card was won by Mrs Gilmartin.

Mrs Barbara Weller welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 1990. Members were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Allwright's husband. Most knew him well as they had visited their farm on the Mapledurham Estate several times in past summers.

The speaker was Mr Gordon Spriggs, his subject "The History of Greyfriars Church". He told that when he became interested in the history of Reading and its ancient buildings, he was later asked to research the history of Greyfriars. This church dates back to the early thirteenth century and restored in 1863 as a parish church in Queen Victoria's reign. In the early days it was inhabited by twelve friars who came from France.

Members could have listened much longer to this fascinating history, but time was getting short and Mr Spriggs had to finish so that pictures etc. that he had brought could be looked at.

### Caversham Community Association

THE cheerful members of the Songsters and Band of the East Reading Salvation Army were welcomed to the club on the 4th December for a carol concert. The programme included old favourites and new carols, with readings, solos and duets. Bernard Sparks brought his ukelele banjo and, with Alistair Todd — the Bandmaster at the double bass, played 'Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells'. Karen Cox, the Songster leader, led the recently re-organised timbral section with their harmonious movements of tambourines. During the interval refreshments were served of home-made mince pies. The concert ended with Jean, the Sergeant, speaking of the real meaning of Christmas and the Captain giving the final prayer. The visitors were thanked by Maida Feast, the Chairman, for giving the club members a very happy evening.

At the meeting the following week the members were given the opportunity to reminisce on their memories of Christmas times. Some interesting tales were told of happy family meetings, the evening was completed with carol singing, accompanied by Nancy Nelhams at the piano.

The clubroom was decorated attractively when the members arrived for the Christmas party on the 18th December. The tables were prepared for a tasty meal of ham, quiche and salad with various trifles etc. to follow. Later in the evening Christmas cake made by Doreen Meadowcraft, was served with sherry or fruit juice. The entertainment was given by the concert party Enterprise II on their second visit to the club. These versatile singers gave a lively performance of songs and sketches. The costumes were attractive and the programme varied to suit everyone's taste. Mrs. Lynne Davies, the leader of the group,

was asked to judge the competition for the best table decoration and awarded Margaret Reeves first prize with Joan Henwood in second place. Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked Mrs. Davies, the singers and their accompanist at the piano, Peggy Parry, for a very good concert. Mrs. Feast also thanked the hardworking committee who prepared the meal, including the trifles, she then wished everyone a Happy Christmas before they departed homewards.

### Chazey W.I.

BUSINESS was kept to a minimum for the Christmas meeting, the only matters discussed were the venues for Social Group Meetings and arrangements for

the annual Moveable Feast. Dorothy Chur-cher was congratulated on being third in the first round of the county Scrabble competition.

Chazey broke with tradition on this occasion and, instead of a Christmas Party, were entertained by Richard Scott of the Herb Farm with some interesting samples of herbs and colourful slides. Much useful advice on the growing of herbs was greatly appreciated.

Seasonal table decorations with candles, all entries for the competition, enhanced the room and gave the perfect setting for the mulled wine and tasty savouries prepared by the committee. This competition brought

Turn to page 7

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Christingle Service at St. John's Church, Christmas Eve



St. Barnabas' playgroup sing Christmas songs at their party



Chapel on the Hill — Mothers' and Toddlers' Group have a Christmas celebration



Christmas story time at Caversham Library

Photos: E. S. Archer

## Children's Christmas Quiz

Congratulations to Claire and Charlotte Darwin, the only two entrants for our Quiz. Let's have some more young readers please!

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## the CLUBS

From page 6

forth more, far more, entries than usual and was won by Pru Scullion.

The singing of carols, led by Kath Hardy on the piano, concluded the evening.

## Caversham Ladies Club

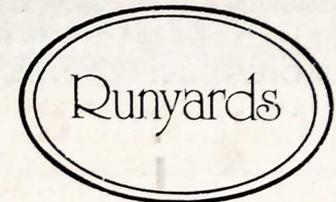
IT was once again Christmas Party time for the club. Unfortunately owing to 'flu, it was sadly depleted in numbers. In the absence of Mrs Harwood, Chairman, who was one of the 'flu victims, Mrs Weald, vice-chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all members present. The tables were a delight to see with their festive covers and well-laden dishes, thanks to all members' kind generosity. A large Christmas cake was the centrepiece; this was made by Mrs Harwood and marzipanned and iced by Mrs Queenie Strong. A competition for decorated candle on a saucer followed.

Mrs Warman very kindly acted as judge, and complimented all entries, which she said all deserved a prize. The final choice was first Mrs E. Wallace, second Mrs Watson, third Mrs J. Annett. Mrs Weald thanked Mrs Warman and all showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Members were then all seated whilst the Committee stood ready to do the 'waitress' service which is the usual procedure at Club parties. First carols were sung, then followed Grace, and the party began in a happy atmosphere. Soon tables were looking empty and it was time for the distribution of a card and present to each member, and thanks to members who kindly offered to deliver to the 'absentees', all would receive their present before Christmas. The afternoon passed so pleasantly that it came as a surprise when closing time was announced for the meeting. Amidst lots of Christmas greetings members left for home with a happy memory of their last Christmas party in the eighties.

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